

National Fish Habitat Initiative Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Stakeholder meetings and participating organizations

Over 195 participants representing 77 agencies and organizations signed in to discuss NFHI during facilitated stakeholders meetings held from December 2003 through July 2004 in Kansas City, Mo., Spokane, Wash., Ocean City, Md., Nashville, Tenn., and Sun Valley, Idaho, and at the AFS Fisheries Administrators Section meeting in San Antonio, Texas. A list of participating organizations, including 37 state agencies, 8 federal agencies and 32 nongovernmental organizations, is provided in the complete stakeholder meeting report.

In addition, SFBPC staff made presentations to administrators from several federal agencies, as well as at the following meetings: Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, Jackson Hole, Wyo., May 3-6; The Coastal Society Conference, Newport, RI, May 23-26; and Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting, Bismarck, ND, July 11-13

Science workshop support

To develop a solid scientific foundation for NFHI, a workshop titled “Healthy Fish Habitats: Creating Benchmarks For Success” is scheduled in conjunction with the AFS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wis. Sponsors for the event are AFS, IAFWA, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SFBPC and USFWS. This facilitated workshop took place on August 22 from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

In preparation for the workshop, NFHI coordinators produced and maintain a website through which participants can: 1) obtain NFHI information; 2) register for the workshop; and 3) submit and review abstracts describing existing habitat monitoring efforts.

Sponsors for stakeholder events

Sponsors for meeting logistics, facilitation, materials and communications with stakeholders included: AFS; B.A.S.S. / ESPN Outdoors; Bass Pro Shops; IAFWA; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Trout Unlimited; and USFWS.

Communications with stakeholders

NFHI coordinators kept stakeholders informed before and after scoping meetings through use of:

- A 7- to 8-page electronic newsletter summarized meetings, provided news about events and services and thanked sponsors. All potential participants within the growing database received these newsletters by email.
- An evaluation form given to participants after each meeting (in paper or online format) gathered recommendations to improve meetings in other regions and determine interest in further participation.
- The NFHI website, which currently catalogues all materials and events associated with NFHI’s scoping and implementation phases.

Through invitation lists and inquiries, a contact database of 379 people representing 186 agencies and organizations, sorted by region and meeting participation, was used to distribute information throughout the scoping process. These databases will allow NFHI coordinators to maintain a flow of information as the NFHI develops.